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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Canadian Environmental Network (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) obtained special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1997. This document constitutes its third quadrennial report in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31. Established in 1977, RCEN is a network comprised of approximately 650 environmental non-government organizations (NGOs) across Canada, each affiliated through one of the Network's 11 regional networks in each of the provinces and the Yukon.

Aims of the organization: The RCEN mission is to facilitate and promote the sharing of knowledge, resources and collaborative efforts to influence domestic and international practices, policies, laws and agreements affecting the environment. This is accomplished through communication and networking efforts among member groups and between NGOs and Governments, Aboriginal groups, international bodies and other civil society groups (such as development, labour, business and faith groups) who strive to protect, preserve and restore natural environments, and to affect how individuals and society as a whole perceive environmental issues. RCEN also coordinates the work of 11 national caucuses made up of experts from our diverse membership to address important environmental issues such as: agriculture, the atmosphere and energy, biodiversity, environmental planning and assessment, forests, health, mining, toxics and water. RCEN also actively encourages and supports groups that take part in public consultation processes, participate in working groups, or are delegates to national and international conferences, including United Nations conferences. For more information, please visit www.cen-rce.org.

Significant changes in the organization — by-laws: While the aims and purposes of RCEN remain the same, two amendments were approved by the RCEN National Council at the Annual General Meeting on 23 September 2005. Amendment to **by-law 6.01** of RCEN — National Council, Composition and Selection increased the total number of youth representatives on the National Council from three to four. This ensures parity among additional Francophone, Aboriginal and Youth representatives on the National Council. Amendment to **by-law 7.06** of RCEN — Board of Directors, Meeting allows board members to participate remotely in board meetings. This ensures equal access of all board members to participate fully in board meetings and for board members participating remotely to be deemed present and part of quorum voting.

Expanded areas of activity: While the mission and the nature of its activities remain much the same as described in the 2005 submission, RCEN has re-established a regional affiliate network in the Province of Quebec. The inclusion of this environmentally, culturally and economically significant province strengthens RCEN as a national network that is more representative of Canada's diversity.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives of RCEN and selected Canadian delegates attended numerous meetings at United Nations Headquarters, New York and circulated reports to the community and posted them on the RCEN website: (a) thirteenth session, Commission on Sustainable Development, April 2005. The NGO and youth delegates on the official Canadian delegation wrote interim and final delegate reports that captured major issues and recommendations from their experiences at the meeting; (b) fifth session, United Nations Forum on Forests, May 2005 and major group meetings; (c) fourteenth session, Commission on Sustainable Development, May 2006; (d) seventh session, United Nations Forum on Forests, April 2007. Furthermore, the NGO delegate mobilized participation from the NGO Major Group for the Multistakeholder Dialogue, thus contributing to the success of the session; (e) sixteenth session, Commission on Sustainable Development, May 2008.

Meetings held in other countries: (a) Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, May/June 2005, Montreal, Canada; (b) Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil. The two RCEN-selected NGO delegates participated in the meeting as members of the official Canadian delegation, presented Canadian NGO perspectives at official Canadian delegation and major group meetings, provided daily e-mail updates to Canadian NGOs during the meeting and co-authored a delegate report that was circulated to the wider NGO community and posted on the RCEN website. In addition to their reports, the NGO and youth delegates participated in and wrote reports on 15 side events; (c) The United Nations Habitat 4th Session of the World Urban Forum, 3-6 November 2008, Nanjing, China; (d) third session of the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum, June 2006, Vancouver, Canada. The RCEN raised funds to bring nine RCEN representatives and 10 NGO delegates to the meeting from the South and led a round table on the environment, morning NGO meetings and an NGO reception. Their report is posted on the RCEN website.

Canadian NGO position paper: "Options for an international instrument on sustainable forest management", March 2007. RCEN coordinated the development of this paper, which was submitted to the Government of Canada in advance of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies: International Day for Biological Diversity Canadian outreach project in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada, 2008. RCEN selected and coordinated the outreach activities of seven NGOs in different regions across Canada for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2008.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: Goal 7: Ensure Sustainability: to ensure environmental sustainability through a variety of activities including an annual conference on the environment, workshops, drafting position papers, education and outreach on specific environmental issues. The RCEN Youth Caucus connects with youth working on environmental issues across Canada, and

promotes youth participation in national and international consultations and delegations. The RCEN International Programme is a network of Canadian NGOs engaged in international work. Its member groups work on a project basis with NGOs from the South on policies and practices that improve the environment and human well-being.

2. Family Care International (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

Founded in 1987, Family Care International (FCI) was the first non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to making pregnancy and childbirth safer around the world. FCI is based in New York and currently works in 19 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, with activities ranging from training health-care providers in village clinics and hospitals to educating young people about contraception and HIV; from helping grass-roots organizations demand better maternity care to advocating globally for stronger commitments, improved policies and increased resources for maternal and reproductive health.

Aims of the organization: FCI works at global, regional, and national levels to create the political will for making maternal health a global and national priority and to build the capacity of Governments and civil society organizations to develop and expand programmes to improve maternal health by: (a) intensifying global advocacy and making a strong, clear case for investing in maternal and reproductive health; (b) building local capacity to develop and deliver high-quality, sustainable maternal and reproductive health programmes and services; and (c) producing new publications and other materials that fill gaps and meet needs, especially around issues of maternal health, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS.

As testament to the impact of our advocacy and the effectiveness of our programmes, FCI was honoured in 2008 with the United Nations Population Award. In January 2008, FCI welcomed its new president, Ann M. Starrs.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) Commission on the Status of Women: FCI regularly takes part in the sessions of the Commission to advocate for implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and to mobilize support for goal 5, target 2 — Achieve universal access to reproductive health. In 2008, FCI presented on financing for goal 5 on a panel hosted by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women; (b) Commission on Population and Development: FCI regularly takes part in the sessions of the Commission to advocate for implementation of the Programme of Action and to mobilize support for goal 5, target 2.

Participation in other activities

Representatives of Family Care International attended, advocated for progressive language on health and presented outcome on issues relating to reproductive and

sexual health at the following meetings: (a) Third Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health, Kuala Lumpur, November 2005; (b) fourteenth International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa, Abuja, December 2005; (c) Meeting of the European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs), Brussels, February 2006: FCI presented on the 2005 World Summit and implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcomes; (d) EuroNGOs annual general meeting, Vilnius, June 2006: FCI presented its advocacy efforts on the Millennium Development Goals and sexual and reproductive health and rights as a "best practice"; (e) Second Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights, Nairobi, June 2006; (f) Youth Assembly at the United Nations, convened by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation at United Nations Headquarters, New York, August 2006; (g) Special Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Health, Maputo, September 2006; (h) High-level Meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies in Africa, Barcelona, Spain, February/March 2007. FCI presented on addressing cultural aspects and community-based work to encourage the use of qualified delivery care; (i) XVII International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, August 2008. FCI staff from field offices presented on: gender and cross-cultural aspects of sexual and reproductive health in Bolivian indigenous populations; knowledge, attitudes and practices relative to sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS in five indigenous groups of the Bolivian Amazon; and strategic partnerships to increase access to HIV prevention and diagnosis in 30 Amazonian indigenous communities of Bolivia, and cultural factors in prevention of HIV in indigenous women in Ecuador; (j) The Social Development Challenge in Africa: Better Health for Africa, United Nations Headquarters, New York, September 2008, presented challenges and opportunities in meeting goal 5; (k) Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival: Meeting the Millennium Development Goals, hosted by Save the Children in Wilton Park, United Kingdom, December 2008. FCI presented on maternal health and the Millennium Development Goals; (l) FCI Millennium Development Goal briefing cards were distributed at international and regional conferences and meetings organized by NGOs and the United Nations, including: Tenth Association for Women's Rights in Development International Forum (Bangkok, October 2005); EuroNGOs workshop on advocating for sexual and reproductive health in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (Brussels, February 2006); Global Consultation on the Rights of People Living with HIV to Sexual and Reproductive Health (Addis Ababa, March 2006); Global Health Council Thirty-third Annual International Conference (Washington, D.C., June 2006); high-level meeting on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (United Nations Headquarters, New York, May/June 2006); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Information and External Relations Division meeting on the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (New York, June 2006); EuroNGOs Annual Conference and Membership Meeting (Vilnius, June 2006); Second Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights; International HIV/AIDS Conference (Toronto, Canada, August 2006); Youth Assembly of the United Nations; International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and Latin American Consortium for Emergency Contraception (New York, October 2006); World Congress of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (Kuala Lumpur, November 2006); First International Forum on Midwifery in the Community (Hammamet, Tunisia, December 2006).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

FCI worked with a number of United Nations agencies at the international, regional, and global levels on technical support, policy-related advocacy, joint publications, joint events, high-level conference planning, and much more. FCI was a strategic partner for UNFPA and attended technical consultations and meetings held by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA both globally and in the countries where we work. Following are examples of FCI partnerships with United Nations agencies or initiatives in which United Nations agencies played a key role: (a) The FCI President has served as the co-Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health since 2005. FCI worked to articulate the NGO and maternal health perspective within the Partnership, as well as to share information with and mobilize the NGO community. FCI worked in collaboration on board matters and advocacy messaging with the Partnership's secretariat located within WHO in Geneva; (b) Countdown to 2015: As of June 2008, FCI is a member of the overall Coordinating Committee and co-chairs the Advocacy Subcommittee, with the Partnership secretariat serving as the other co-Chair. As such, FCI works collaboratively with partners from the maternal, newborn and child health continuum on developing Countdown's overarching messages; (c) Women Deliver: FCI coordinated efforts to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Safe Motherhood Initiative as the host of the Women Deliver conference in October 2007 in London. The conference shared lessons learned and intensified efforts to achieve goal 5, improving maternal health. Nearly 2,000 advocates, researchers, policymakers and global leaders from 115 countries called for investing in maternal health, demonstrating its centrality to the economic growth and the social fabric of developing nations. Women Deliver is now a global advocacy initiative focused principally on calling the world's attention to, and advocating for, goal 5, this most neglected and underfunded element of the continuum of care; (d) Launch of The Lancet Maternal Survival Series: London, October 2006. FCI presented on global maternal health and called for increased investment and policies to achieve goal 5. Launch of The Lancet Sexual and Reproductive Health Series: United Nations, New York, January 2007. FCI partnered with UNFPA and WHO to launch this special Lancet series and continues to disseminate key messages and recommendations from the series.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: FCI has been a key advocate for the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights into strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In January 2005, FCI began a multifaceted advocacy campaign to ensure that the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights for achieving the Goals was recognized by Governments, and that those Governments committed to incorporate the International Conference on Population and Development goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 into national and international strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In the months leading up to the five-year review of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, FCI advocated for a reaffirmation of the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015 in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted by the High-Level Meeting on AIDS in June 2006. Since the 2005 World Summit, FCI has continued to share information about the linkages between the Millennium Development Goals and sexual and reproductive health and rights and raise awareness about the outcomes of the Summit and Governments' commitments on these issues globally, regionally, and at

the country level (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Niger). In May 2005, to support ongoing advocacy and awareness-raising, FCI released a set of briefing cards titled The Millennium Development Goals and Sexual and Reproductive Health. The briefing cards, accompanied by PowerPoint presentations in English, French and Spanish, clearly articulate the linkages between the Millennium Development Goals and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Between May 2005 and December 2006, FCI distributed the briefing cards in English (15,600), French (1,700) and Spanish (9,000). In addition, more than 7,600 copies were downloaded from the FCI website between July 2005 and May 2006.

In 2008, FCI kept the focus on goal 4 — Reduce child mortality and goal 5 — Improve maternal health at Commitment to Progress for Mothers, Newborns and Children, a special event held during the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals in New York in September 2008. The event, co-hosted by the Presidents of Chile, Finland and the United Republic of Tanzania and co-organized by several agencies including FCI, sought to inspire future initiatives for women and children based on successes to date; build on current momentum and make mutual commitments to accelerate progress on goals 4 and 5; and provide inputs to the High-level Event round tables. The Presidents committed their countries to take action to meet the child and maternal health targets in goals 4 and 5. The event was attended by representatives of more than 100 Governments and international organizations; many of them brought pledges to support action on these goals. The FCI President made a call to leaders on behalf of the broader NGO maternal, newborn, and child health community.

Lastly, the following list includes a sample of publications developed and produced by FCI in collaboration with and/or funded by United Nations agencies: *Countdown 2015* magazine (E/F/S); Millennium Development Goals and Reproductive Health briefing cards (E/F/S); Guia metodológica para evaluación participativa de necesidades en salud sexual y reproductiva; *Living Testimony: Obstetric Fistula and Inequities in Maternal Health* (E/F); *You, Your Life and Your Dreams* (E/F/S); Executive Summary of The Lancet Maternal Survival Series (E/F/S); and the Executive Summary of The Lancet Sexual and Reproductive Health Series (E/F/S).

3. Latin American and Caribbean Continental Organization of Students (Special; 1997)

I. Introduction

The Latin American and Caribbean Continental Organization of Students (OCLAE) was established in 1966 at the Fourth Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Students held in Havana. Its membership is comprised of 36 organizations from 23 countries with about 110 million student members throughout Latin America. The Center for Information on the Latin American Student Movement has the task of preserving the collective memory and the research on political participation of students in Latin America, which is a space for students to identify social movements on the continent. Every two and a half years OCLAE promotes the Latin American and Caribbean Student Congresses, the high point of the organization's life, where the main issues relating to education and youth in the region are discussed.

During the reporting period, OCLAE has remained as a platform for the Latin American student movement fighting for the rights of youth and students. Its main objectives include: to fight for the eradication of illiteracy, affordable education, student welfare, the defence of university autonomy, freedom and plurality of academia and public and free education, and to promote and develop effective solidarity among students in their struggle against fascism, imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, hunger, social injustice, and all conduct or expression that goes against human dignity. OCLAE has been active in supporting scientific and technological development as an avenue for developing countries in the region, making efforts to realize a viable public policy for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

OCLAE has had operational relations status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1997, is a member of the Latin American Youth Forum, part of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students. OCLAE is also a member of the International Council of the World Social Forum.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

(a) In June 2008, the Regional Conference on Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by UNESCO, was held in Cartagena, Colombia. During the conference, OCLAE made proposals that served as a basis for ideas for the World Conference on Higher Education held in Paris in 2009; (b) OCLAE participated in the Second International Congress on University Volunteerism in December 2008 in Santo Domingo, which was convened by United Nations Volunteers; (c) In 2007, OCLAE began a project with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Havana, for the technological upgrading of the Center for Information on the Latin American Student Movement to enable interactive access from anywhere in the world; (d) In 2008, OCLAE made a written contribution as an NGO to the stakeholders' submission to the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council concerning the examination of Cuba in 2009; (e) Talks and combined projects have been established with the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, headquartered in Caracas. The Institute and OCLAE jointly hosted an interactive forum on the Institute's website.

4. MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society (MINBYUN) is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the Republic of Korea seeking to improve democracy and promote social justice. The activities of MINBYUN range from general litigation for the victims of human rights violations to awareness-building projects such as organizing conferences/seminars and publications.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

MINBYUN representatives participated at the following meetings in Geneva, Switzerland: (a) sixty-first session, Commission on Human Rights, March/April 2005. The organization submitted statements E/CN.4/2005/NGO/303 and E/CN.4/2005/NGO/304. Two members participated and made oral statements; (b) sixty-second session, Commission on Human Rights, March/April 2006. The organization submitted statements E/CN.4/2006/NGO/183, E/CN.4/2006/NGO/184, and E/CN.4/2006/NGO/185; (c) fourth session, Human Rights Council, March 2007: monitoring participation; (d) seventh session, Human Rights Council, March 2008: submission of a written statement, A/HRC/7/NGO/30; (e) eighth session, Human Rights Council, 2008: oral presentation by member of the organization; (f) ninth session, Human Rights Council, September 2008: oral presentation and a parallel event in association with the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development and the Asian Legal Resource Center; (g) tenth session, Human Rights Council, March 2009: the organization submitted statement A/HRC/10/NGO/82, members participated by making oral presentations and organized a parallel event in association with the Asian Legal Resource Center and Amnesty International; (h) second session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, May 2008; a contribution was made to the stakeholders' report (A/HRC/WG.6/2/KOR/3) and three members participated in and monitored the session.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization's representative participated at the following meetings in Geneva, Switzerland: (a) eighty-eighth session of the Human Rights Committee, October/November 2006: the organization sent a delegation and submitted an NGO shadow report; (b) thirty-sixth session of the Committee against Torture, May 2006: the organization sent a delegation and submitted an NGO shadow report; (c) seventy-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, July/August 2007: the organization sent a delegation and submitted an NGO shadow report; (d) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Pre-Sessional Working Group, November 2008: the organization sent a delegation and submitted an NGO shadow report.

At United Nations Headquarters, New York: thirty-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, July/August 2007: the organization sent a delegation and submitted an NGO shadow report.

5. Native Women's Association of Canada (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) works to empower women by developing and changing legislation that affects their lives and by developing and implementing programmes promoting equal opportunity for Aboriginal women.

NWAC is founded on the collective goal of enhancing, promoting and fostering the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations and Métis women within their communities and Canadian society. As one of the five national Aboriginal organizations in Canada, NWAC has a bilateral relationship with the Government regarding discussions on issues affecting Aboriginal women. NWAC represents Aboriginal women on issues of human rights, including those related to violence, racism, sexism, and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Aims of the organization: NWAC has a vision of Aboriginal communities where: (a) all individuals have an opportunity to develop their talents in order to achieve their full potential; (b) all people can lead healthy lifestyles by maintaining balance in their spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health; (c) all our children grow up with a strong identification of and pride in who they are and constantly seek to broaden their knowledge of the things that affect them and their relationship with the environment and the land; (d) all our people have an opportunity to learn our history and traditional ways while attaining a high level of education; (e) all understand and respect the diversity and uniqueness of all Aboriginal nations; and (f) all strive to maintain and exercise Aboriginal and treaty rights, determine the utilization of natural resources and strive to coexist in cooperation with a society free of racism and discrimination. We are the national voice for Native women to (a) address issues in a manner which reflects the changing needs of Native women in Canada; (b) assist and promote common goals towards self-determination and self-sufficiency for Native peoples in our role as mothers and leaders; (c) promote equal opportunities for Native women in programmes and activities; (d) serve as a resource among our constituency and Native communities; (e) cultivate and teach the characteristics that are unique aspects of our cultural and historical traditions; (f) assist Native women's organizations, as well as community initiatives, in the development of their local projects; (g) advance issues and concerns of Native women; and (h) link with other Native organizations with common goals.

The main course of action for NWAC is to advocate politically and socially as one of five national Aboriginal organizations recognized by the federal and provincial ministers. NWAC speaks out about the programmes and policies that impact on the lives of Aboriginal peoples. NWAC hosts conferences and workshops on self-determination, self-government and environmental rights, including the rights to water, economic development, justice and to be free of racism. NWAC seeks intervener status on precedent-setting court cases to affect court outcomes and participates in federal/provincial/territorial/Aboriginal processes related to the human rights of Aboriginal women. We participate in standard-setting and other human rights processes at the United Nations, such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

NWAC has made extensive contributions to the work of the United Nations in the area of the human rights of indigenous peoples with a particular emphasis on the human rights of indigenous women, including in relation to advancing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, detailed below.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

(a) eleventh session of the Inter-Sessional Working Group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, 2005 and 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. NWAC representatives attended the sessions and participated in negotiations on the text; (b) fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, May 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York, which focused on the theme "Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples with a focus on **Goal 1 to eradicate poverty and extreme hunger, and Goal 2 to achieve universal primary education**". A representative made a joint statement on behalf of NWAC, Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indigenas Regio Sud América and Rights and Democracy and approximately 20 other NGOs under agenda item 4; (c) fifth session, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, May 2006, New York, which focused on the theme "The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Millennium Development Goals". A representative made a joint intervention with the International Indigenous Women's Forum and Madres on agenda item 4 (c); (d) sixth session, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, May 2007, New York, which focused on the theme "Territories, lands and natural resources". A representative of NWAC made a joint intervention on behalf of NWAC and the International Indigenous Women's Forum North America on agenda item 7; (e) seventh session, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, May 2008, New York, which focused on the theme "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges". The representative of NWAC made statements on behalf of the North American Indigenous Peoples Caucus under agenda items 6, 8 and 9.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or Headquarters: NWAC submitted reports on the North American preparatory meetings prepared by co-rapporteurs from NWAC and the International Indian Treaty Council to the sixth and seventh sessions of the Permanent Forum.

To the United Nations treaty monitoring bodies regarding reviews of Canada (a) joint submission by NWAC and the Assembly of First Nations to the Human Rights Committee (2005); (b) submission by NWAC to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2006); (c) submission by NWAC to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2007); (d) report by NWAC to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2008).

6. Rotary International (General; 1993)

I. Introduction

Rotary International (RI) is a worldwide organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders united to provide humanitarian service and build goodwill and peace. Founded in 1905, today there are some 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas on seven continents. Clubs are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races and creeds. United in Rotary's global campaign to eradicate polio, Rotary members have contributed US$ 800 million and countless volunteer hours since 1988 to immunize 2 billion children from the wild polio virus. In addition, all Rotary clubs implement at least one local and one international service project annually. Through these projects, Rotary members

volunteer their time, expertise and financial support to address local and global challenges such as illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty and environmental concerns. Many projects are supported with grants from RI. In 2005-2008, Rotary membership increased approximately 1 per cent. Significant membership growth occurred in areas of Asia, Europe and Africa, while parts of North America and Oceania reported membership decreases. New Rotary clubs have also been established in several countries or areas: Tajikistan (2005); Equatorial Guinea (2005); Kosovo (2006); Lao Democratic People's Republic (2006) and Kiribati (2008).

Rotary's more than 20-year commitment to polio eradication has been boosted with increased organizational support from the World Health Organization, which deemed polio as its top operational priority in 2008. Since 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded Rotary US$ 355 million for polio eradication, of which Rotary will match US$ 200 million, resulting in a US$ 555 million infusion to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to protect children from polio in high-risk and four remaining endemic countries. Since 2005, RI has streamlined its programmes for greater impact and sustainable outcomes. As a result, RI now focuses on peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

To support the work of the Economic and Social Council and Millennium Development Goals, Rotary leaders participated in many recurring United Nations conferences and meetings as panellists, moderators, presenters and exhibitors. Examples of such recurring meetings include: (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council sessions, 2005 and 2007 (Nairobi) and special sessions (Dubai, 2006 and Monaco 2008); (b) Commission on the Status of Women, 2005-2008, United Nations Headquarters: RI leaders moderated/presented at three panels with Soroptomist and Zonta International; (c) Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2005-2008, Vienna: Rotary leader attended as member of commission; (d) United States National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Annual Meeting, 2007 and 2008, Washington, D.C.: Rotary leader attended as commission member and made brief presentation; (e) World Health Assembly, 2005-2008, Geneva, Switzerland: Rotary leaders made interventions on polio items; (f) high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, 2005 and 2008, United Nations Headquarters: Rotary submitted statements; (g) Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Annual Conference, 2005-2008, New York and Paris: RI representative to United Nations moderated midday panels; (h) UNESCO General Conference/Executive Session, 2005-2008, Paris; (i) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council, 2005-2008, Rome.

In addition, RI attended the following meetings: **2005**: (a) Summit of the African Union, Abuja; (b) Seventh International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kobe, Japan; (c) World Water Week, Stockholm; (d) 2005 World Summit, September, New York; (e) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna. **2006**: (a) Council of Europe Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations, January, Strasbourg, France; (b) FAO Regional Conferences, Caracas, Jakarta and Riga; (c) White House Conference on Global Literacy, New

York; (d) World AIDS Day event, New York: RI representatives to United Nations serve on HIV/AIDS panel discussion; (e) UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting, Lusaka. **2007**: (a) United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Governing Council, Nairobi; (b) United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit, Geneva, Switzerland; (c) UNESCO Regional Literacy Conferences, Beijing, Bamako and New Delhi. **2008**: (a) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Governing Council, Rome; (b) FAO Regional Conferences, Cairo, Brasilia, Nairobi and Innsbruck, Austria; (c) UNESCO Regional Literacy Conference, Baku: RI leader moderates panel; (d) Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs "Beyond 2008" Forum, Vienna; (e) United Nations Private Sector Forum, New York: RI leader attends as one of two NGO representatives; (f) high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals, New York: RI President makes remarks to General Assembly regarding Rotary's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

To help achieve these and other humanitarian goals, Rotary maintained active relationships with many United Nations bodies and NGOs at the global, regional and local levels. Rotary's highest-level relationships were with the other spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative: WHO, UNICEF and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Following the spearheading partners, RI maintained cooperative relationships with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Reading Association, Goodwill Industries International and Dollywood Foundation. A network of 23 Rotary leaders were appointed annually by the RI President to serve as representatives to United Nations Headquarters; the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna, the Economic Commissions for Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia and Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO, FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), IFAD (added in 2008), UN-Habitat, UNEP, the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe and the African Union. RI representatives serve on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, the Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organization Committee, the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and the Conference of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: Rotary clubs implemented a variety of projects that addressed the Millennium Development Goals. It contributed US$ 12.8 million to fund 48 large-scale, multi-year projects that enhance health, help alleviate hunger, or improve human development through self-sustaining activities. **Goal 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**. Rotary clubs establish microcredit loans and banks, provide agricultural development training and materials, and organize community food banks. For example, Rotary clubs in the United States fund and manage the PowerFlour Action Network, which packages and ships malt flour to boost calories and nutrients for severely malnourished infants and adults in the developing world. PowerFlour food supplements have enhanced more than 50 million meals in 66 countries. **Goal 2 — Achieve universal primary education**. Some 16,000 Rotary clubs worldwide support literacy and numeracy programmes through donating dictionaries, building schools, or serving as tutors. In 2004 Rotary clubs in Brazil established Educafé, a primary school for the children of coffee farmers in the Brazilian State of Bahia. Previously, 80 per cent of local children had not attended school or received regular meals. The school provides education, meals, uniforms, transportation, books, supplies and preventative health care for nearly 80 children. **Goal 3 — Promote**

gender equality and empower women. Rotary clubs worldwide expand education and vocational training opportunities for girls and women. For example, in 2008, the New Zabuli Education Center, a free year-round school in rural Afghanistan, opened for girls who were not educated under the Taliban regime. To date, the school has enrolled 200 children and classes for adult women are planned. **Goal 4 — Reduce child mortality**. Many Rotary projects help reduce child mortality by providing potable water, nutritional supplements and medical care. In 2008/09, more than 10,000 Rotary members worldwide attended Rotary-organized child survival conferences, which raised awareness about the issue and generated US$ 500,000 towards related projects. In addition, RI leaders supported and promoted local clubs' participation in the new United Nations REACH (Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Undernutrition) initiative, jointly led by WFP, FAO, UNICEF and WHO. **Goal 5 — Improve maternal health**. Rotary projects provide reproductive health education, medical services during pregnancy and delivery, and nutritional supplements to undernourished pregnant women and new mothers. For instance, Rotary clubs in Nigeria, Austria and Germany partnered to implement projects to treat and prevent obstetric fistula, train medical personnel, deliver hospital equipment, and conduct advocacy and awareness campaigns on child spacing in Nigeria. Since 2005, the project has targeted 5 million Nigerian women with a budget of US$ 1.4 million. **Goal 6 — Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**. Rotary HIV/AIDS projects focus on prevention, education, testing, counselling, nutritional and medical intervention, hospice care, female empowerment and male circumcision. For example, a Rotary-supported programme in the Dominican Republic in 2006/07 succeeded in lowering the rate of mother-to-baby HIV transmission from 40 per cent to zero by providing medication, counselling, and pre- and post-natal care. **Goal 7 — Ensure environmental sustainability**. For more than 100 years, Rotary has implemented environmental projects such as tree-planting, water purification and sanitation, conservation-area protection and recycling programmes. For example, in 2003-2008 Rotarians in the Republic of Korea, with the support of US$ 500,000 in Rotary Foundation grants, planted 220,000 trees in the Gobi desert, creating a natural windbreak to protect Mongolia from dust storms. **Goal 8 — Develop a global partnership for development**. Rotary International and its polio eradication partners — UNICEF, WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — work with pharmaceutical companies to provide the oral polio vaccine at greatly reduced costs to national Governments and purchasing agencies. In addition to the projects supporting the Millennium Development Goals, Rotary clubs worldwide lead projects to address other important issues and mutual concerns. For example, ShelterBox, supported by 7,000 Rotary clubs worldwide, provided emergency shelter and aid for some 800,000 victims of natural and other disasters in 57 countries since 2000. Rotary also works to improve awareness and recognition of the United Nations and to advance common goals of both organizations. The RI representatives to the United Nations organize Rotary-United Nations Day each November at United Nations Headquarters. The daylong event attracted 900 Rotary members and affiliates from some 40 countries in 2008. In addition, the United Nations-Rotary Outreach Programme, established in 2008, facilitates United Nations specialists' briefings on a range of humanitarian issues for large Rotary audiences. Finally, several RI publications, with a total subscription of 1,250,000, featured in-depth articles in 2005-2008 on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and key United Nations meetings and initiatives.